captioned "Two more iron-ore mines to be privatised" as reported in Indian Express dated 26th July, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the two more mines to which Government propose to privatise are profitable ones; and

(d) if so, the reasons why Government wants to privatise them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) is having mining lease for Kumaraswamy Block B and C deposits. Government of Karnataka has sought surrender to the lease held by NMDC in favour of the State Government to enable the State Government to lease it to private entrepreneurs setting up steel plants. Kumaraswamy deposits have not been fully commercially exploited as yet.

National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has also applied for grant of mining lease in respect of Ramandurg Deposit.

Assistance to Tobacco Growers' Union

2511. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will extend assistance to Tobacco Growers' Unions on an ad hoc basis to educate farmers on lab-to-land research developments;

(b) if so, the kind of assistance that can be applied for;

(c) the steps likely to be taken to grant financial assistance to such tobacco farmers' organisations in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether any assistance has been given to them so far; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The technical know how of tobacco cultivation in terms of Tobacco Nursery Raising, Planting, Fertilizer Management, Disease & Pest Management, Harvesting, Curing and Grading is being given to the Tobacco Growers at CTRI.

(b) Tobacco Growers Association can make request to the Central Tobacco Research Institute for helping the farmers with the non-monetery inputs such as training and advisory services.

(c) to (e) No financial assistance is proposed to be granted to the Tobacco Farmers Organiszation in Andhra Pradesh.

Hardship faced by Ph.D Students in Delhi University

2512. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postgraduate students of Delhi University are facing hardship to get their Ph. D. Degree on time on account of the failure of the examiners to turn up for conducting the Viva-Voce;

(b) whether students had to lose one year on this account as reported in the Indian Express dated 7-8-95; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to streamline Delhi University administration for being sympathetic to students for timely holding all examinations including that of for Doctorate degrees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KM. SELJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Schemes for Development of Medium and Small Cities in Gujarat

2513. SHRI ANATRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes introduced/ proposed to be introduced by the Central Government, through the Housing and